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Office of the Mayor

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Martin Signs On to Mayors for the Freedom to Marry
Says we must continue advocating for change

STAMFORD, CT – Mayor David Martin on Thursday joined Mayors for the Freedom to Marry, an initiative of the Freedom to Marry Campaign, citing the need to end discrimination and fully recognize equal rights for same-sex couples.

"I am proud to join with mayors from across the state and country to show my support for marriage equality. Connecticut has been a leader on this issue, having many of the most progressive laws in the country. We must continue advocating for change at the national level and for policies that will make our communities more inclusive and respectful of everyone, regardless of sexual orientation," said Mayor Martin.

According to Freedom to Marry, a bipartisan group of 378 mayors from 38 states, including 12 from Connecticut (counting Martin), have signed on. The initiative's goal is to win the freedom to marry in more states, grow the national majority for marriage, and end federal marriage discrimination. The organization partners with individuals and organizations across the country to end the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage and the protections, responsibilities, and commitment that marriage brings.

"Mayor Martin, like more than 350 other Mayors for the Freedom to Marry, knows that supporting the freedom to marry is good for Stamford's families, neighborhoods, and economy," said Marc Solomon, National Campaign Director of Freedom to Marry. "Allowing same-sex couples to share in marriage helps the families that Mayor Martin serves, and harms no one. We welcome other Mayors across Connecticut and the country to add their names to Mayors for the Freedom to Marry and help make the case for why marriage strengthens their cities, and strengthens America as a nation."

Anthony Crisci, Executive Director of Triangle Community Center, Fairfield County's LGBTQ community center, applauded Martin for signing on to Mayors for the Freedom to Marry and his support for expanding programs that will support the LGBTQ community.

"Mayor Martin is right to support the marriage equality movement. Although Connecticut has legal equality for LGBTQ people, we are still working towards a lived equality for our community in this state. Stamford is one of the fastest growing, most diverse cities in Connecticut. David is helping to build a welcoming and inclusive city. The LGBTQ community needs allies like David to not just advocate for legal equality, but to help achieve a lived equality for a community at a greater risk of isolation, mental health issues, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS. To that end, Triangle Community Center looks

forward to working with Mayor Martin and the City of Stamford in the future to provide meaningful services and programs to those who are most vulnerable in our community.”

Mayor Martin will be speaking this evening at the Stamford Coalition for Respect panel discussion at 7:00 p.m. at UConn-Stamford.

More information about the Freedom to Marry Campaign can be found at <http://www.freedomtomarry.org>. More information on the Triangle Community Center can be found at <http://www.ctgay.org>.

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